ABSOLUTE CARNAGE

SEPARATION ANXIETY

CHAPMAN
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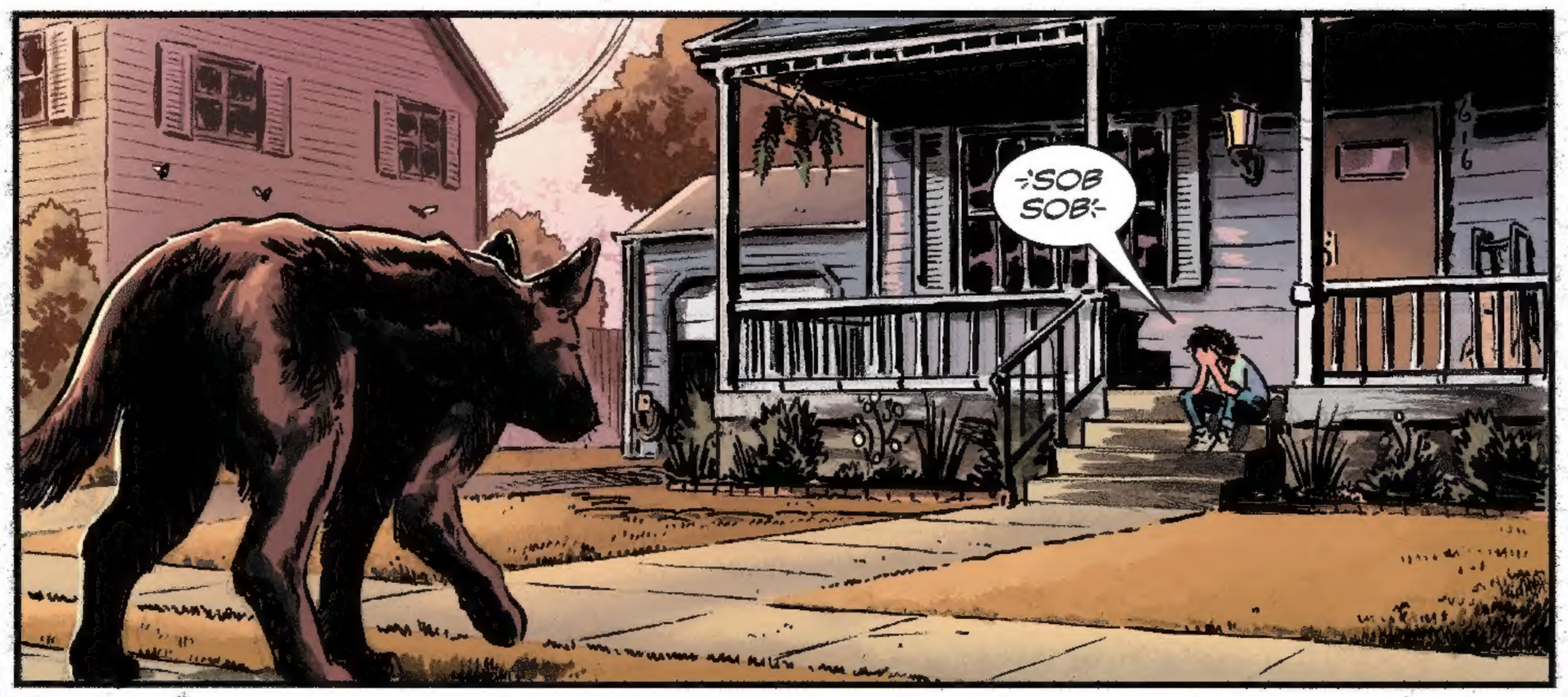
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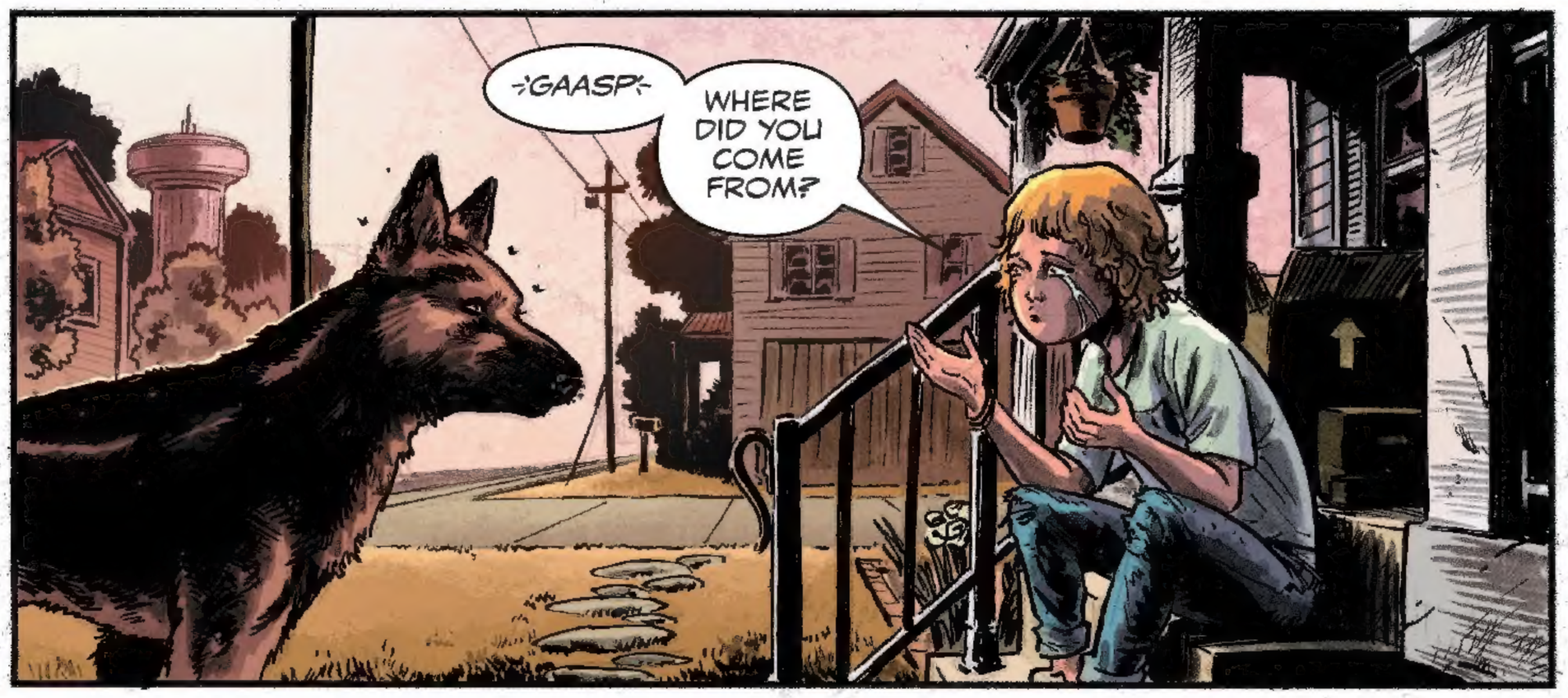
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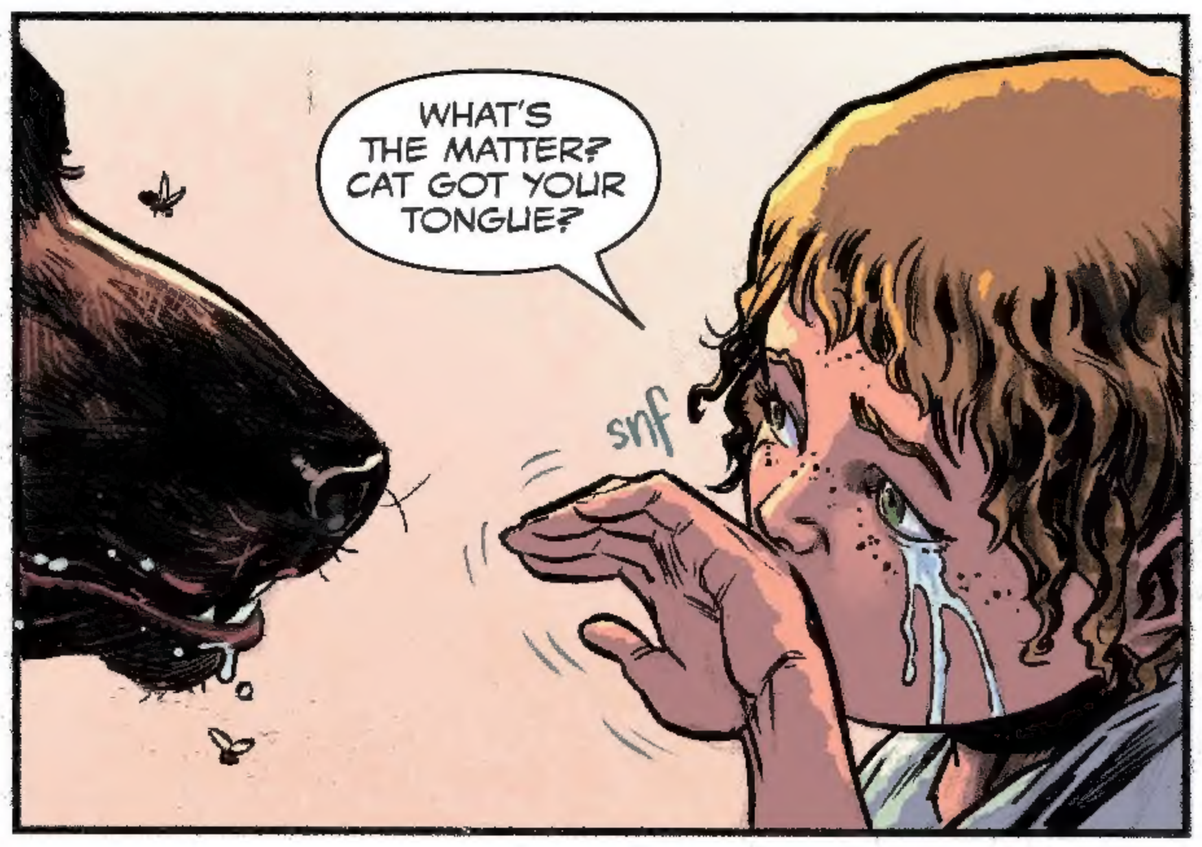
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I GOTTA GO... SORRY.

I WISH I COULD INVITE YOU IN, BUT...WELL, IT'S NOT REALLY MY HOME.

NOT ANYMORE.

MOM AND DAD HAVE BEEN AT EACH OTHER'S THROATS FOR ***MONTHS.*** MOM'S TAKING ME AND MY BROTHER AWAY, EVEN IF WE DON'T WANT TO GO.

HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO SAY IT. YOU JUST DON'T LISTEN. IT'S LIKE YOU'RE IN--

THEY'RE ALWAYS ARGUING NOW...ALL THEY CAN DO IS SAY MEAN THINGS TO EACH OTHER.

HURT EACH OTHER.

THEY DON'T EVEN LISTEN TO ME ANYMORE! THEY NEVER LISTENED...

THEY DON'T CARE IF THEY HURT ME OR BILLY. IT'S LIKE THEY'RE BLIND. THEY DON'T SEE US ANYMORE, THEY'RE SO ANGRY. THEY DON'T EVEN REALIZE THEY'RE RIPPING THE WHOLE FAMILY APART.

I'VE BEEN PUTTING FOOD ON OUR TABLE WHILE YOU'VE BEEN--

DON'T YOU SEE THAT THEY NEED YOU--

I WISH WE COULD STAY. STAY HERE. IN OUR HOUSE.

STAY A FAMILY.

YOU STILL WANNA COME INSIDE, *HUH?* AFTER EVERYTHING I JUST SAID?

JUST FOR A LITTLE WHILE, 'KAY? JUST UNTIL WE CAN FIND OUT WHERE YOU BELONG...

I'M RIGHT HERE--

YOU'RE TAKING THEM AWAY FROM ME!

IF I HONESTLY THOUGHT FOR ONE MINUTE--EVEN FOR A SECOND--THAT YOU WERE ACTUALLY PAYING ATTENTION TO OUR KIDS...

SSH. BE VERY, VERY QUIET.

...THEN I WOULDN'T BE MOVING HALFWAY ACROSS TOWN--

YOU'RE ALWAYS PITTING THEM AGAINST ME! *OUR OWN CHILDREN!*

OH, *PLEASE*-- YOU'VE DONE A PERFECT JOB OF THAT ALL ON YOUR OWN.

IF YOU STOPPED LONG ENOUGH TO THINK ABOUT *ANYONE* BUT *YOURSELF*...

...YOU MIGHT NOTICE WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON IN YOUR OWN HOUSE, RIGHT UNDER YOUR NOSE!

AS IF YOU'RE COMING UP FOR PARENT OF THE YEAR...

GO AHEAD. MAKE ME THE BAD GUY.

IF THE SHOE FITS...AND I'D SAY IT FITS YOU JUST FINE. FITS YOU ***PERFECTLY.***

YOU CAN PIN THE BLAME ON ME ALL YOU WANT...BUT LET'S BE HONEST WITH OURSELVES.

YOU CLOCKED OUT OF THIS MARRIAGE YEARS AGO. LONG BEFORE I DID.

I NEVER GAVE UP ON OUR FAMILY. ***NEVER.*** NOT LIKE YOU!

PLEASE. I WOULD DO ANYTHING TO KEEP OUR FAMILY TOGETHER.

ANYTHING.

GRRRRR!

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YEARS AGO, THE LIFE FOUNDATION–A DANGEROUS CONGLOMERATE THAT, FOR A TIME, FOCUSED ITS EFFORTS ON DESTROYING SPIDER-MAN–CAPTURED THE VENOM SYMBIOTE AND FORCED IT TO SPAWN FIVE OFFSPRING: SCREAM, LASHER, RIOT, AGONY AND PHAGE.

FOR YEARS, **THE LIFE FOUNDATION SYMBIOTES**, AS THEY CAME TO BE CALLED, EXISTED SEPARATELY–BUT WHEN ONE OF THE ORGANISMS TURNED TRAITOR AND BEGAN KILLING THEIR HOSTS, THE REMAINING FOUR SYMBIOTES HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO MERGE AND FORM A NEW ENTITY…CALLED HYBRID!

AS HYBRID, THE SYMBIOTES WERE MOST RECENTLY SEEN BONDED TO A STRAY DOG AFTER AN ADVENTURE INVOLVING DEADPOOL.

THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE DOG–AND THE FOUR EXTRATERRESTRIAL CREATURES BONDED TO IT–REMAIN UNKNOWN…

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE
SEPARATION ANXIETY

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WOLVERINE!
X-MAS
FOR TREE!
HALLOWEEN
knock knock !!!
HEY! YOU FORGOT THE PASSWORD...
FINE... "XEMNU." HAPPY? CAN I COME IN NOW, TWERP?
PASSWORD ACCEPTED. YOU MAY NOW ENTER.
YOU GOTTA COME DOWNSTAIRS! I'VE GOT A BIG SURPRISE FOR YOU...
DO I HAVE TO? CAN'T I JUST STAY HERE?
TRUST ME. YOU'RE GONNA FLIP.
COME ON, SLOW-POKE!
I'M COMING! I'M COMING!
OW! STOP PULLING SO HARD!
HURRY UP!
I WANT TO INTRODUCE YOU TO MY NEW...

...FRIEND.

SADIE!

SADIE, PLEASE--

HELP ME...

SSAAAADIEEEE...

COME TO DADDDDY...

SADIE, TAKE YOUR BROTH--

SSKRREEEEE!

NO, DON'T GET TOO CLOSE!

ZZZZST

RUN, SADIE!

GET OUT OF THE HHHOOU--

AAIEEGHH

MOMMY...?

MOMMMY!

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PAMILY.

RUN, BILLY!

HELMETS

WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT--

JUST SAY NO! to HELMETS!

SSSTAAY, SSWEEETIE.

SLAM

WE'RE FAAAMILY.

ISSN'T THISS WHAT YOU WANTED? ISSSN'T THISS WHAT YOU AAASSKED FOR?

TO BE WHOLE AGAIN?

TO BE OOONE?

ding dong

CAN I HELP YOU?

TESS. HEY. SORRY TO BOTHER YOU, BUT... WELL, I WAS ABOUT TO MOW OUR LAWN AND...I THOUGHT I HEARD SOME SHOUTING.

EVERYTHING OKAY IN THERE?

TEAM BUILDER

COULDN'T BE BETTER. WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME IN? I WAS JUST MAKING SOME LEMONADE FOR THE KIDS...

TEAM BUILDER

HELP! HELP US! PLEA--

AAH... AAAAAAH...

TEAM BUILD

sspt

FRESHLY SQUEEZED

sss

AAAHHH

WHAT HAPPENED TO MOMMY AND DADDY? THEY LOOK LIKE *VENOM.*

SSH. THEY WON'T FIND US IF WE KEEP QUIET.

SPIDER-MAN USES FIRE AND SOUND TO STOP HIM. THOSE ARE HIS *WEAKNESSES.*

WE GOTTA FIND A WAY *OUTTA HERE.*

OUTTA THE HOUSE.

SNF SNFF SSSNFF...

WHEN THE COAST IS CLEAR, I'M GONNA GO DOWNSTAIRS...

DON'T LEAVE ME!

THERE'S A PHONE IN MOM AND DAD'S ROOM. I'LL ONLY BE GONE FOR A--

SMASH

SMASH SMASH SMASH

SMA SMA SMA

AAH!

CRA-A-A-SH

SMASH SMASH SMAAASH CRRAAAACK

THEERE YOOOOU AARE...

WE'VE BEEN LOOOOKING EVERYWHERE FOR YOOOOU...

AAAAAAH! AAAAAAAH!

AAAAAA

tk-!

DINNER IS ON THE TABLE...

SKEEEEEEE

WHAAT HAVE I TOLD YOOOU A HUNDRED TIMES?

KRUNCH

TURN THAT RACKET DOWN!

BILLY IT'S WORKING!

WE HEARD YOUR CRIES, SADIE...

HEARD YOUR PAIN.

WE HAVE BEEN SEARCHING FOR A SAFE HAVEN...

ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU ASKED FOR? ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU WANTED? TO BE WHOLE AGAIN?

ONE BIG HAPPY FAMILY.

CRRRSH

A PLACE TO HIDE

TO CALL HOME.

WE CAN HEAL YOU... ALL OF YOU.

YOUR MOTHER... YOUR FATHER...

WE CAN BE TOGETHER AGAIN. COMPLETE AGAIN...

RAWR RAWRR RRRAWR!

WHAM

RRAAWR RRRAWR!

CRRCK

BILLLLY... LOOK AT YOUR FATHER WHEN I AM SPEAKING TO YOOOU

SADIE!

THAT'S A GOOD BOY COME TO DADDY

SADIE!

UUGH!

COME BACK HERE! DON'T MAKE ME COUNT TO THREE!

IN HERE!

WE'LL BE OKAY. MOMMY AND DADDY WILL BE OKAY.

ONE...

SSH.

TWO...

TWO AND A HALF...

WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T MAKE A...

SPLCH

...SOUND.

TWO AND THREE-QUARTERS...

BILLY!

MMMMPH!

AAH!

THUD!

SADIEEEEEEEEEEEEE!

NO... PLEASE, NO... BILLY...

SISSSS...

THREEE!

PLEASE STOP...PLEASE GO...

AWAY... PLEASE... PLEASE...

IT'S NOT BAD, SISSSS...NOT BAD AT ALL. IT FEEELS SSOOO MUCH BETTER.

WE'RE ONE AGAIN. WHOLE AGAIN. REMEMBER WHEN WE WERE A HAPPY FAMILY?

WE MISSS YOU, SISSS. COME ON. COME BAACK...JUST TAKE OUR HAAND

YOU'RE NOT MY FAMILY!

GIVE ME BACK MY FAMILY!

YOU NEEEED USSSSS. YOUR FAMILY WAS FALLING TO PIECES..

YOUR HOME RIPPED APART.

WE WILL HOLD YOUR HOME TOGETHER. WE CAN KEEP YOUR FAMILY UNITED. CONNECTED!

ISSSN'T THAT WHAT YOU WANT...? WHAT YOU ASSKED USSS FOR?

SSSOME QUALITY BONDING TIME?

pssp!

OH...

ROWR RAWRR RROW!

YELP!

WAIT UP, SISSS! DON'T LEAVE MEEE.

KOOF

GONNA MAKEIT GONNAMAKE ITGONNA--

THERE YOU ARE! I WAS BEGINNING TO WORRY YOU DIDN'T HEAR THE DINNER BELL RINGING.

I WAS JUST ABOUT TO SEND OUT A SEARCH PARTY.

TEAM BUILDERS

YOUR SUPPER'S GROWING COLD.

DID YOU ALREADY WASH YOUR HANDS?

HAVE A SEAT.

SORRY I'M LATE...GOT CAUGHT UP WITH SOME WORK.

MMM-MM. SMELLS GREAT, HON...WHAT'RE WE HAVING?

I MADE YOUR FAVORITE.

CAN'T WAIT TO DIG IN. I'M FAMISHED.

WHERE'S YOUR BROTHER HIDING NOW?

BILLY! DINNER!

BOO! GOTCHA!

AAAAAH!

ENOUGH, BILLY...AND NO SNEAKING BITES UNTIL AFTER WE GIVE THANKS!

SHALL WE SAY GRACE?

GOOOD BREAD... GOOD MEEEAT...

GOOD GOD KNULL. LET'S EEEEEEAT!

MM-MM-GOOD! I'M STARVING...

DON'T TALK WITH YOUR MOUTH FULL, SON. CHEW IT ALL UP. SWALLOW.

ANYTHING EXCITING HAPPEN AT SCHOOL TODAY, BUD?

CALEB CUSHING CALLED ESTELLE OLIVIA A *BUTTFACE* IN THIRD PERIOD.

LANGUAGE, BILLY. WATCH YOUR TONGUE.

I'M JUST SAYING WHAT HE SAID!

HOW WAS YOUR DAY AT WORK, HON?

EH, YOU KNOW... SAME OLD. ANOTHER DAY, *ANOTHER DOLLAR.*

HHYUULCH

SSSSSS

AH... *AAAH.*

I'M SORRY, MOM. I'M SO SORRY, BILLY... I COULDN'T PROTECT YOU. THIS...

THIS IS ALL MY FAULT.

NO, SADIE...NO, NO, DON'T SAY THAT. DON'T YOU SEEE?

YOU BROUGHT US ALL TOGETHER AGAIN.

WHAT'S THIS? YOU'VE BARELY TOUCHED YOUR FOOD! YOU FEELING OKAY? NOT HUNGRY?

I'LL EAT HERS IF SHE DOESN'T WANT IT.

UH-UH. HANDS TO YOURSELF...

I WANT TO SEE A HAPPY PLATE, MISSY, OR IT'S NO DESSERT FOR YOU.

I'D LIKE TO PROPOSE A TOAST... TO OUR FAMILY.

TO SADIE.

IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU, DEAR, NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE HAPPENED.

NOW WE CAN MAKE OUR PILGRIMAGE TO MEET OUR MAKER.

TO REUNITE WITH KNULL.

YOU ARE THE GLUE THAT BINDS THIS FAMILY TOGETHER.

PLOOP

PLOP

BLOOP

AS ONE

TO SADIE.

SSSSAADIEEE...

CHEERS.

NO!

FRSH

YOU ARE NOT MY FAMILY!

SPLCH

RAWWR!

RRAAAAR!

SKRRREEE!

HSSSS!

RAAAWR! RAAAWR!

I'M GONNA MAKE IT. I'M GONNA MAKE IT. I'M--

--GONNA MAKE IT... GONNA--

--MAKE IT...

I--

HOME.

HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS.

THIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN OUR HOME.

WE WERE BORN HERE. WE GREW UP HERE.

THIS IS THE ONLY HOME WE'VE EVER HAD.

EVER KNOWN.

ALL PACKED! TIME TO HIT THE ROAD, KIDS...

SADIE! COME ON, HON... WE'RE BURNING DAYLIGHT.

WHO'S READY TO TAKE A BITE OUTTA THE BIG APPLE?

WE ARE, WE ARE!

ALL RIGHTY, THEN...AND AAAAWAY WE GO!

IF ANYONE GETS HUNGRY, WE PACKED A SNACK IN THE COOLER. JUST LET US KNOW.

I SPY...

...WITH MY LITTLE EYE...

...SOMETHING *RED.*

TO BE CONTINUED IN ABSOLUTE CARNAGE!



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AT LAST!

After over a year of planning, ABSOLUTE CARNAGE has fallen upon the Marvel Universe!

If this is your first VENOM book in a while, or your first one ever, WELCOME! We hope you survive the experience.

As I write this, ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #1 has only been at the printer for about 48 hours, so we don't have any fan letters from you Venomaniacs out there in Mighty Marveldom just yet...

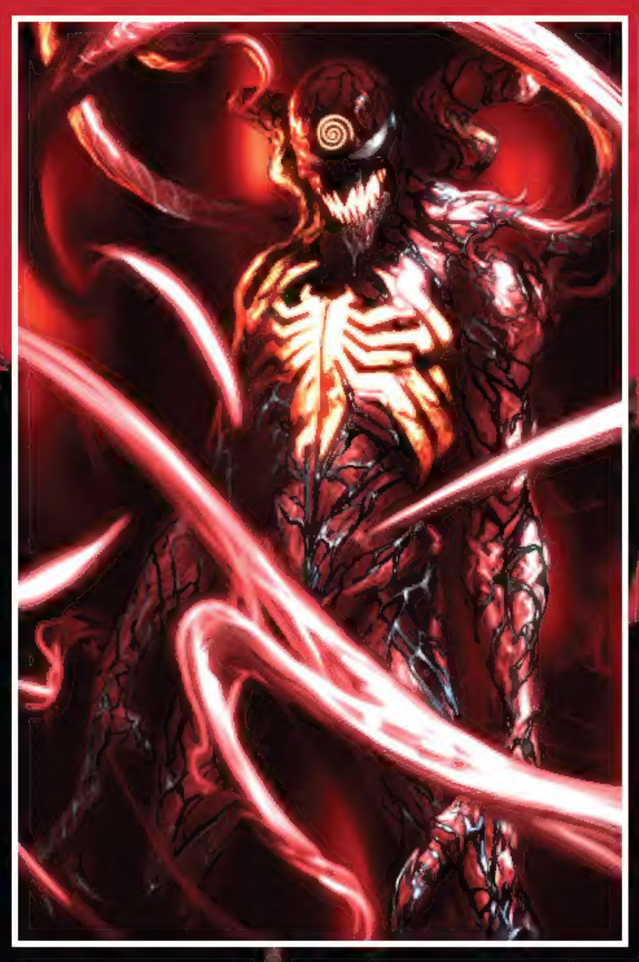
BUT YOU CAN FIX THAT RIGHT NOW! How?! By writing a letter about this very comic book to us at SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM--be sure to mark it "OKAY TO PRINT" and you may just see it in this very column in another issue of ABSOLTUE CARNAGE!

ITEM: No event is complete without an awesome assortment of variant covers, so we wanted to take this opportunity to explain some of the epic variant programs your pals here at the House of Ideas have been working on--and give a shout-out to all of the incredibly talented artists who have contributed to the first wave of variants in the process!

CODEX VARIANTS: These covers showcase characters who have worn Venom or one of its offspring and have codices in their DNA! On this issue, we were fortunate enough to be joined by comics legend Dave Johnson, channeling his inner Merc With a Mouth for this one!



CULT OF CARNAGE VARIANTS: These covers showcase the super villains who have been working with Carnage for the last several months! And who better to kick the program off than the maniacal maestro himself, Cletus Kasady?! Gabriele Dell'Otto joined us for this piece--featured on ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #1--and I dunno about you guys, but as far as I'm concerned, he created straight-up nightmare fuel here.



shiver

YOUNG GUNS: AH! One of the coolest programs I've ever gotten to work on. The Young Guns are the next generation of industry-defining artists, and each one of them did a variant for the event featuring a redesign of a major Marvel character, based on the part they play in ABSOLUTE CARNAGE.

First we have this STUNNING Demogoblin redesign from Aaron Kuder that was also featured on ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #1:



But when last we saw Demogoblin, it seemed to take a male form. How is it back, and why the change in how it manifests? Are these designs simple fantasy, or will they find their way to the Marvel Universe in the pages of ABSOLUTE CARNAGE? There's only one way to find out, True Believers: KEEP READING!

CONNECTING VARIANTS: Lastly, but certainly by no means least, ABSOLUTE CARNAGE and its tie-in miniseries will each be getting interlocking covers. Unfortunately, SEPARATION ANXIETY is

a one-shot, which makes it a bit difficult to create a connecting cover for this one. Fortunately, we've got another tie-in to ABSOLUTE CARNAGE going on sale this week...SCREAM!

The fifth and final Life Foundation symbiote, Scream has always been one of my favorite Marvel characters, and it's been a treat to watch the character return to prominence as a part of ABSOLUTE CARNAGE! The connecting covers on that miniseries were illustrated by none other than Mark Bagley, and I dunno about you, but they're some of my favorite covers EVER!



One final note on variant covers before we dip to get this issue to the printer.

If you want one of the covers listed here--or any other cover that's a part of ABSOLUTE CARNAGE--and your comic shop doesn't have it, TELL YOUR COMIC SHOP ABOUT THAT SPECIFIC COVER! There should be someone from your shop in touch with someone here at the House of Ideas who'll be able to scare one up. It's never guaranteed, but your local shop should always be your first stop if you're hunting a specific cover down.

And while you're at it, tell them you want the best, and this month the best is CARNAGE! 'Cause this summer...
CARNAGE RULES!
#carnagerules

And don't miss ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SCREAM #1, one of the best minis I've ever worked on EVER, and ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: MILES MORALES #1 and ABSOLUTE CARNAGE VS. DEADPOOL #1--both on sale next week!

Stay sharp!
Devin
@edevinlewis

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE CHECKLIST

AUGUST
X ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #1
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #2
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: MILES MORALES #1
X ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SCREAM #1
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: LETHAL PROTECTORS #1
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE VS. DEADPOOL #1
X ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SEPARATION ANXIETY #1
VENOM #17

SEPTEMBER
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #3
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: MILES MORALES #2
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SCREAM #2
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: LETHAL PROTECTORS #2
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE VS. DEADPOOL #2
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE:
GHOST RIDER - SYMBIOTE OF VENGEANCE #1
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SYMBIOTE SPIDER-MAN #1
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: AVENGERS #1
VENOM #18
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #30

OCTOBER
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #4
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: MILES MORALES #3
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SCREAM #3
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: LETHAL PROTECTORS #3
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE VS. DEADPOOL #3
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: IMMORTAL HULK #1
VENOM #19
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #31

NOVEMBER
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #5
VENOM #20